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dramatic instinct, which is apparent enough, yields often to his desire to be merely flippant.

DERELICTS: An Account of Ships Lost at Sea in General Commercial Traffic, and a Brief History of Blockade Runners along the North Carolina Coast, 1861-1865. By James Sprunt. Wilmington, N. C. 1920. Pp. 304.

Although well printed and handsomely bound, this book is too inorganic in form and heterogeneous in contents to merit the kind and amount of praise that was bestowed on the author's *Chronicles of the Cape Fear River*. Nevertheless, the section devoted to stories of Blockade Runners has historical and romantic value and might well be reprinted as a separate pamphlet. And perhaps another interesting reprint might be made of the material relating to Confederate Fighting Captains of the Sea.

The last story in the book, "The *Lilian's* Last Successful Run", is full of that better sort of chastened Southern sentiment that can manfully reveal a slave as a hero and the romantic love of an aristocratic young couple as sanctified by a black man's devotion.

T. P. B.

SONGS OF THE WIND ON A SOUTHERN SHORE. By George E. Merrick. Boston: The Four Seas Company. 1920. Pp. 79.

OUTDOORS AND IN. By Joshua Freeman Crowell. Boston: The Four Seas Company. 1920. Pp. xix, 199.

THE HOUSE OF LOVE. By Will D. Muse. Boston: The Cornhill Company. 1920. Pp. 92.

We regret to be unable to approve of any one of these three volumes of verse. All alike are without inspiration, without an authentic sense of beauty, and are, therefore, mere exercises in versification.

Mr. Merrick's lines seek to describe scenes and narrate emotional experiences having a Floridian setting. His diction is grandiloquent, his syntax involved, and his metrics and spelling often questionable. The only real attraction that the book possesses is found in the several colored plates reproduced from paintings made in Florida by Denman Fink.